

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJECT: LEATHER WORK SHOES -- KOREAN COMMITMENT UNDER
SIDE LETTER TO ORDERLY MARKETING AGREEMENT

1. IN SIDE LETTER TO OMA SIGNED BY AMBASSADOR YONG SHIK
KIM ON JUNE 21, 1977, ROKG ASSURED USG THAT ANY INCREASE
IN EXPORTS OF LEATHER WORK SHOES FROM KOREA TO UNITED
STATES WOULD TAKE PLACE AT A MODERATE RATE, AND THAT THERE
WOULD BE NO LARGE-SCALE SHIFT.

2. IN VIEW OF RENEWED COMPLAINTS BY DOMESTIC PRODUCERS
CONCERNED ABOUT THE LOSS OF SALES TO KOREAN - MADE LEATHER
WORK SHOES IN THE U.S. MARKET, AD HOC INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE
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TO MONITOR FOOTWEAR IMPORTS EXAMINED PERTINENT DATA.
COMMITTEE FOUND ABSOLUTE INCREASE IN IMPORTS FROM KOREA
AS WELL AS HIGH PROPORTION OF WORK SHOES IN KOREA'S LEATHER
CATEGORY EXCLUDING ATHLETIC FOOTWEAR.

3. COMMITTEE HAS NOTED (1) THAT IMPORTS OF LEATHER WORK
SHOES FROM KOREA INCREASED BY SOMEWHAT MORE THAN 55 PERCENT

IN THE FIRST TWELVE MONTHS UNDER THE OMA COMPARED TO THE
CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR (3.7 MILLION
PAIRS VS. 2.4 MILLION), AND (2) THAT WORK SHOES ACCOUNTED

FOR 44.4 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL IMPORTS OF LEATHER FOOTWEAR
EXCLUDING ATHLETIC SHOES, FROM KOREA IN THE JULY 1, 1977 -
JUNE 30, 1978 PERIOD COMPARED TO 17.1 PERCENT IN THE
SAME PERIOD OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR. IF THE 20 PERCENT
AVERAGE ROLLBACK WERE APPLIED PROPORTIONATELY TO LEATHER
WORK SHOE IMPORTS FROM KOREA IN 1976 (2.53 MILLION PAIRS)
THE RESULTING IMPORT LEVEL FOR THE FIRST RESTRAINT YEAR
WOULD BE 2.02 MILLION PAIRS. ACTUAL IMPORTS IN THE FIRST
RESTRAINT YEAR TOTALED 3,657,000 PAIRS.

4. TOTAL IMPORTS OF WORK SHOES FROM ALL SOURCES
INCREASED FROM 1.8 MILLION PAIRS TO 3.0 MILLION IN THE
FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1978. DOMESTIC PRODUCTION
DECLINED FROM 11.2 TO 10.6 MILLION PAIRS. IMPORTS ACCOUNTED
FOR 22. , PERCENT OF U.S. CONSUMPTION IN THE FIRST FIVE
MONTHS OF 1978 COMPARED TO ONLY 13.7 PERCENT IN THE SAME
MONTHS LAST YEAR.

5. POST IS REQUESTED TO ADVISE APPROPRIATE ROKG OFFICIALS
OF USG CONCERN OVER THESE DEVELOPMENTS AND ASK WHAT STEPS
ROKG PLANS TO TAKE TO ALLEVIATE THE PROBLEM. CHRISTOPHER

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